

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100110026-8

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CHANNELS

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CIA/OC/WHIZ 741122

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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO,

25X1A9a

STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR [REDACTED]

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITER NOT 2

DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: FULL ALERT IN VIENTIANE

REF

25X1A2g

COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST MILITARY FORCES IN VIENTIANE WERE PLACED ON FULL ALERT TODAY. ALTHOUGH THE PRECISE REASONS FOR THE ALERT ARE UNKNOWN, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT EITHER SIDE IS SERIOUSLY ENGAGED IN COUP PLOTTING. IT SEEMS MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT THE ALERT IS RELATED TO A RENEWED THREAT OF LARGE-SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS BY WAR VETERANS IN THE LAO CAPITAL.

NON-COMMUNIST FORCES WENT ON PARTIAL ALERT EARLIER THIS WEEK IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS THAT THE PATHET LAO WERE ATTEMPTING

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TO ORGANIZE PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE VETERANS FOR NOVEMBER 18. SENIOR NON-COMMUNIST OFFICERS SUBSEQUENTLY PERSUADED THE VETS TO CALL OFF MONDAY'S PROTEST. BUT THE HEIGHTENED MILITARY POSTURE OF THEIR FORCES ALMOST CERTAINLY AROUSED DEEP-SEATED PATHET LAO FEARS OF A COUP AND PROMPTED THE COMMUNISTS TO INCREASE THEIR OWN STATE OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS.

THE LATEST WAR OF NERVES IN VIENTIANE HAS DOUBTLESS BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE ABSENCE OF KEY POLITICAL LEADERS ON BOTH SIDES WHO WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO COUNSEL MODERATION AND RESTRAINT.

PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, PHOLMI VONEVICHIT, AND OTHER SENIOR LAO COMMUNIST LEADERS ARE IN SAM NEUA. WHILE NON-COMMUNIST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEAM INSISIENGCHAY AND DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK ARE IN EUROPE. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA IS CONVALESCING IN THE ROYAL LAO CAPITAL OF LUANG PRABANG. BUT BOTH SIDES ARE PROBABLY

4 RELUCTANT TO INVOLVE HIM IN A SITUATION WHICH MIGHT PROVE DETRIMENTAL TO HIS FAILING HEALTH. E-2 IMPDET.A

2 SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: EAPD AND NID

25X1A9a

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DATE: 22 MAR 74 25X1A9a
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